Chaplin's Clown Wears a Mask Of Tragedy in 'Verdoux' Film

By Jay Carmody

It is one of show business's weariest cliches that every clown wants to play Hamlet. Well, the clown with the greatest reputation of them all does something of the sort in Charles Chaplin's "Monsieur Verdoux," which opened yesterday at five theaters, the Pix, Apex, Atlas, Senator and Naylor. Chaplin's famous little tramp has been discarded in favor of the

world's symbolic little man. The latter is neither so loveable, not so the tertaining as his predecessor, but there is no disputing that he is arresting and dramatic.

"Monsieur Verdoux" has been described as revolutionary. This is an excessive statement. The picture is merely different, most notably from those which Chaplin has made. It also has been proclaimed as the picture which could not be the

Chaplin reverts to type, the talented entertainer. It has other passages when it is nothing more than a pious, profound bore when Chaplin is being the artist who Chaplin is being the artist who fancies that he is stating a truth per cent, choosing Chaplin the enkind only possessed his wisdom and Chaplin, the evangelist, to himself. equivalent humanity.

The latter are the parts of "Mon-sieur Verdoux" which Chaplin's new little man, Mon-sieur Verdoux" which Chaplin's new little man, Mon-sieur verdoux, is a murderer, but in quence in which he takes her for about the party Mike is giving after quence in which he takes her for about the party Mike is giving after a post ride with the object of doing the premier of "Arch of Triumph". clearly likes best. Audiences quite the main a comic one, or at the a boat ride with the object of doing the premier of "Arch of Triumph" likely will disagree with him 100 worst a tragic-comic killer. It is away with her; the other a garden Mike has a part in the picture.





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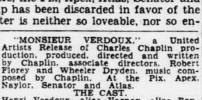
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It also has been proclaimed as the picture which could not be stopped, although it has never been stated who tried to stop it, or on what grounds anyone would want to.

Actually, it comes to the public as any other motion picture, a work to be judged on its merit. Its merit, to be crisp about it, is unewen. It to be crisp about it, is unewen. It when the could not be stopped, although it has never been attacked who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it. Annabelia Bonheur Martha Raye Annette, her maid Marie Grosnay Isobel Elsom the maid to stop it is to be in the stated who tried to stop it, or on the stated who tried to stop it. The Law.

The Law Martha, his wife Audrey Betz Aud

that might save mankind if man-tertainer as their man and leaving

his maker's intention also that party at which she spoils his plan . Ronald Colman and his beautifu. he shall be both the amusing and to become husband to a wealthy, Benita taking off early because pitiable symbol of all little men, restrained dowager. to survive.

Before he became a bluebeard, Chaplin has to deliver. destroying a succession of trusting, vulnerable females for their savings or insurance, Monsieur Ver- players on the way to his picture's manufacturing them wholesale for doux worked more than 30 years for a big bank, which suddenly for which the comedy was made. fired him. Loving his crippled wife Apart from Miss Raye, however, and and his child, and passionately perhaps Isobel Elsom as the most protective toward them in his prim reluctant of the ladies, one is sellittle clerical soul, he must resort dom conscious of the others. to guile and violence to survive It is strictly his picture, best when the system.

It is a prodigious job of casting tain to be remembered as such. the picture's theme and grim message in high-low comedy mould that Chaplin has taken upon himself. He is actor enough, however, to bring it off, for "Monsieur Verdoux" is a comedy. It makes murder ironically funny, the kind of joke it was in "Arsenic and Old Lace," but with the slapstick skimmed off now and then to expose the

message. One of the fascinations of Chaplin's picture, and at the same time, one of its weaknesses, is that the going into business as an independhero always is more Chaplin than Verdoux. The actor is always rid- take over the Arbuckle roles—he's ing above the character, a man signing Romo Vincent, the 200whose extraordinary pantomine you have known for decades, who speaks Liner." now with a prissily precise voice. It is Chaplin's voice first, then, if one as his schnozzle. An MGM waitress thinks about it, the Chaplin con- was saving to buy her crippled ception of Monsieur Verdoux.

"Monsteur Verdoux" is a character a check for \$100. Her daughter study. Every incident of the story has the wheel chair. which Chaplin wrote himself is Lilli Palmer is coming back to designed to illuminate the inner Hollywood ahead of husband Rex image of a man, a French bank Harrison-she has to make another clerk out of a job. The incident is movie for Ross Milton Sperling. repetitious, a succession of romanticfinancial crises in which the harassed little man has to murder an- honest actress in town. She has other of his paramours to forestall some gray hair, but Babs doesn't

economic disaster. There is variety, however, in the On her it looks fine. And there homme fatale Chaplin creates. To win his extra-marital women, he must adopt a workland women. win his extra-marital women, he must adopt a variety of poses. For tells me, "because I have very broad one, he plays the tired, charming shoulders—18 inches across."

Danny Kaye lunching in the ture. Another is captivated by him Warner Green Room, and putting Trench. Spanish. Italian, Gerder as a gentle humanitarian who respective Method—available only at the SERLITZ SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES trieves her from the gutter with an impersonal love that asks no recomplishing the service of the ser

pense. For still another, he plays house—it's a strain watching somethe role of a daring sea captain a one being funny all the time.

passionate rogue back from the brine.

Dennis O'Keefe and Randy Scott These impersonations have a ten- are putting their friendship to the dency toward hilarity, and upon acid test. In "Draw Sabres," which many of them, Chaplin's deserted they co-authored, they will also little tramp intrudes himself with co-star and co-produce. It will be delightful comedy effect. The two high sequences of the friends at the end of the picture.

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11 a.m., 1:05, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25 and Hippodrome-"The Adventuress" 2:15, 4:10, 6:10, 7:55 and 9:40 p.m. Daisy Ken Keith's—"Singapore"; 11:50 a.m. I had fi

FILM NEWCOMER - When

Barbara Bel Geddes, daughter

of stage designer Norman Bel

Geddes, made her Broadway

debut in "Deep Are the Roots"

critics called her a young

Helen Hayes. The inevitable Hollywood contract followed

and a leading role opposite Henry Fonda in "The Long Night." The drama comes to

lecture-like climax, the philosophy

it is closest to pure comedy, and cer-

Durante Heart

Also Is Large;

By Sheilah Graham

Barbara Stanwyck is the most

bother to dye it. Why should she?

fascinating to see if they are still

I bumped into Maureen O'Hara

shopping at Saks with her mother-

in-law, Mrs. Kenneth Price. "When

are you going to make another pic-

ture?" I asked her. "When I get a

good script," she replies sweetly. John Hodiak coming out of a

Beverly Hills hardware store with

a slewful of goods. Anne Baxter is

lucky to have a husband who does

June Allyson tells me that she

doesn't have to make her next

January. "It's the longest time be-

when he finishes "Stations West."

Garden in New York.

of the Turtle."

to leave.

tremendous draw.

Sonja Henie tees off with her iceskating tour November 18 in Indianapolis. She ends at Madison Square

Richard Ney, if he can get time off from his Duke role with Ingrid

stage in San Francisco in "The Voice

The exhibitors want Van Johnson

to make one personal appearance tour a year. Van in the flesh is a

Mary Pickford has bought the

rights to "Sorrel and Son," and is

looking for an actor for the part originally played by H. B. Warner.

Lewis Stone would be good. Young Richard Walsh is in every

one of the four movies now being

made at Warners! That's quite a

record for a boy who left Hollywood six months ago to act in stock be-

cause he wasn't getting any place

here. It seems to be a good idea

Orson Welles and Charles Feld-

man cooking up a deal for Orson to star in and direct "The Shadow."

Deems Taylor gave a farewell

the shopping.

Sinatra Busy

Hollywood:

Keith's October 8.

12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35 and to have a new title. "Howard 11:45 p.m. Pix - "Monsieur Verdoux"; 11:20 boss."

Trans-Lux-News and Shorts. Joins "Mama" Cast and 11:55 p.m.

picture are almost perfect rever- stars in the sky thrown in, at the Homolka and Philip Dorn. sions to Chaplin's old role. In both of these, Martha Raye is his roister-off for New York. Lewis Milestone Chaplin's new little man, Mon- ing, slap-stick partner; one a se- and Prince Mike Romanoff huddled

"The dinner is on the hob." Barbara who, as victims of an economic sys- The picture has no higher points Barondess MacLean tells me that tem, must revert to jungle morals than these, in both of which it is as a result of my item here that farthest removed from the message she had designed a "tea cozy" skirt for Anita Colby, all the lovelies in town-like Lana Turner and Jen-Chaplin is associated with other nifer Jones-want one. She is now Larry Parks was paged by his

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wife, Betty Garrett, to make a test screen as a George Stevens producwith her for her first movie, "Big tion. City." It was a bedroom scene and Miss Bates is currently on the she thought Larry would be of help. screen in Samuel Goldwyn's Techni-But his boss, Harry Cohn-they're

Kaye and Virginia Mayo.

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am GARDNER

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feuding—said, "absolutely no." So Walter Mitty," supporting Danny Cameron Mitchell played Betty's hubby for the test shots. Talking of Cameron, he is putting up a strong pitch to play Babe Ruth in the Bambino's biography for Allied Pictures. Cam would be Capitol-"The Unfinished Dance"; a more logical choice than William 10:30 a.m., 1:05, 3:40, 6:15, 9 and Conrad, because he can really play baseball

Joan Crawford recently received a spray of 100 (count 'em) gardenias. from Otto Preminger. Now I'm wondering—and so is Joan—whether Otto sent them as her director (for "Daisy Kenyon") or as a prospec-

1:50, 3:55, 5:55, 8, 10:05 p.m. and cocktail party for Artur Rubenstein Little—"Fantasia"; 11:05 a.m., picked up some news. Rubenstein 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 and 9:30 p.m. is going to England, France and Metropolitan—"Badmen of Mis- Switzerland to give a series of consouri'; 11 a.m., 12:45, 2:35, 4:20, certs . . . Harold Lloyd was ex-:10, 8 and 9:45 p.m.
Palace—"Desert Fury"; 10:45 a.m., Diddlebock," his latest picture, has Hughes didn't like it, and he's the

a.m., 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8, 10:10 p.m. (Released by North American Newspaper

Continuous from 10:15 a.m.

Warner—"Life With Father": Florence Bates will play the novel-11 a.m., 1:10, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45 ist in RKO Radio's picturization of the stage hit "I Remember Mama." She joins a cast headed by Irene cocktail party-with candlelight, and Dunne, Barbara Bel Geddes, Oscar This picture will come to the

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LATE SHOW TONIGHT Last Feature at 11:45 p.m.



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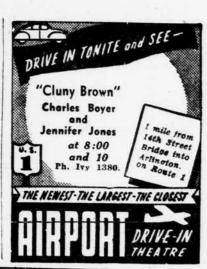
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APOLLO 624 H St. N.E. FR. 5300. Mot. 1 P M. At 1:55. 5:15. 8:35. Millerson Case." At 3:05. 6:25. 9:45.

AVALON 5612 Conn. Ave. N W. WO. 2600. Mot. 1 P.M. Butch Jenkins in "My Brother Talks thorses." At 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

AVE. GRAND 645 Pa. Ave. S.E Ll .2460. Mat. 1:00

"Frontier Scout." At 1, 3:40, 6:20, 9. "Millerson Case." 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55.

BEVERLY 15th & E N.E. LI. 3300. Mot. 1 P.M. Groucho Marx. Carmen Miranda in "Copacabana." 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 8:45.

CALVERT 2324 Wis. Ave. N.W. WO. 2345. Mot. 1 P.M. Av. 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:45, 9:40.

CENTRAL 425 9th St. N.W. ME. 2841. Opens 10:45 Gregory Peck: "Macomber Affair," 11. 2:35. 6:10. 9:45. Butch Jenkins. "My Brother Talks to Horses." 1, 4:35. 8:10.

COLONY 4935 Georgia Ave. N.W.
GE. 6500. Mot. 1 P.M.
Barry Fitzgerald, "Easy Come, Easy
Go." At 1:45, 3:45, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40.

HOME 1230 C St. N.E. TR. 8188. Mot. 1 P M. Lash La Rue in "Border Feud." At 2:10. 5:30. 8:50. "Winter Wonderland." At 3:10. 6:30. 9:50. Laugh Hour—Cartoons and Comedies. 1. 4:20. 7:40.

KENNEDY Kennedy Nr. 4th N.W. RA. 6600. Mot. 1 P. M. Jon Hall in "Michigan Kid." At 1:30 0:10. 4:50. 6:30, 8:10. 9:50.

MacARTHUR 4859 MocAribur Blvd.
OR. 4600, Mot. 1 P.M.
Early Opening—Open 10:30 A.M. Pirst Show 11 A.M. Walt Disney's "Twin Feature" Festival—"Make Mine Music." 11:10, 2:15, 5:20, 8:20, "Pinocchio." 12:40, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45.

PENN FR. Ave. at 7th S.E. FR. 5200. Mat 1 P.M. Ray Milland. "Trouble With Women." At 1:25, 3:30, 5:30, 7:25, 9:40.

SAVOY 3030 14th St. N.W. CO. 4968. Mat. 1 P.M. Gene Tierney, "Ghost and Mrs. Muir," At 1. 3:05, 5:15, 7:20, 8:20.

SECO 8244 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring

SH. 2540 Open 10:45 Charles Starrett in "Prairie Raiders." At 11:15, 1:45, 4:40, 6:40, 9, "Sport of Kings." 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50,

SHERIDAN Ga. Ave. & Sheridan RA. 2400. Mat. 1 P.M. Butch Jenkins in "My Brother Talks to Horses." 1:20, 3:30, 5:35, 7:35, 9:40

SILVER Ga. Ave. Colesville Pike SH. 5500. Mat. 1 P.M. Ray Milland. "Trouble With Women. At 1:40. 3:40. 5:40. 7:40. 9:40.

TAKOMA 4th and Butternut Sts.
GE. 4312. Mat. 1 P.M.

TIVOLI 14th and Park Rd. N.W. CO. 4312. Mat. 1 P.M.

Ray Milland. "Trouble With Women, At 1, 2:40, 4:25, 6:05, 7:50, 9:35,

UPTOWN Conn. Ave. and Newark WO. 5400. Mat. 1 P.M.

Errol Flynn, Barbara Stanwyck in "Cr; Wolf," 1:35, 3:40, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45

YORK Ga. Ave. and Quebec Pl. N.W. RA. 4400. Mat. 1 P.M. Gene Autry in "Robinhood of Texas." At 1. 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45.

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William Marshail. Adele Mara:
"ALIAS BILLY THE KID." Sunset
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Fairlawn Amuse. Co. Theaters

HIGHLAND 2533 Penng. Ave. S.E. AI. 7311. AIR COND. June Haver. Mark Stevens in "I WONDER WHO'S KISSING HER NOW." in technicolor. at 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:25, 9:25.

ATLANTIC 21 Atlantic St. S.W. June Haver, Mark Stevens in "I WON-DER WHO'S KISSING HER NOW." in technicolor, at 1:05, 3:20, 5:30, 7:30, 9:25.

CONGRESS 18, 8700. AIR COND.
Butch Jenkins and Peter Lawford in
"MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES."
at 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:25, Plus

at 1:25, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:25, Plus cartoon treat with Donald Duck, Goofy and Tom and Jerry.

PAIRLAWN 1342 Good Hope Rd. S.E. 11, 9193. AIR COND.
Double feature—Ted Donaidson in "FOR THE LOVE OF RUSTY." at 1. 3:15. 5:30. 7:45, 10; Johnny Mack Brown in "LAW COMES TO GUNSIGHT," at 2:15. 4:35, 6:50, 9:05.

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Double Feature — Eddie Dean in "STARS
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ANACOSTIA 1415 Good Hope Rd. S.E. LU 2424
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Burf Lancaster. Yvonne DeCarlo in "BRUTE FORCE," at 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:35, Plus Popeye and Tom and Jerry

CAPITOL Capitol Heights, Md HI. 4740, AIR COND. Double feature—"SHOOT TO KILL." at 1. 3:20, 5:40, 8, 10: Tim Holt in Zane Grey's "THUNDER MOUNTAIN," at 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:20.

REED 1723 King St.—Alex. 3445
Porking Space, Air. Cond.
William Powell. Myrna Loy in "SONG
OF THE THIN MAN."

"Spoilers of the North." At 1:10. 4 6:55. 9:45. "Little Miss Broadway. At 2:40. 5:35. 8:25.

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APEX 48th & Mass. Ave. N.W WO. 4600 Cont. 1-11 P.M First Washington showing of "MON SJEUR VERDOUX." with Charli Chaplin, 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50. Increased prices this engagement only: Children 30 cents; Adults 44 cents matinee, 74 cents evening (tax included).

ATLAS 1331 H St. N.E. AT. 8300 Cont. 1 to 11
First Washington showing of "MON
SIEUR VERDOUX." with Charlie
Chaplin, 11. 1:35. 4:25, 7:15, 10. Increased prices this engagement only: Children 30 cents: Adults 44 cents matinee, 74 cent: evening (tax included).

SENATOR Minn. Ave. at Benning Rd. N.E. JR. 2600
Free Parking—C-8 Bus to Door. First Washington showing of "MON SIEUR VERDOUX." with Charlic Chaplin. 1, 3:10, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50. Increased prices this engagement only: Children 30 cents: Adults 44 cents matinee, 74 cents evening (tax included).

NAYLOR 28th & Alabama Ave. S.E.
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